

businessman. He expanded his family automobile dealership from a single Ford franchise to one of the most successful auto parks in the country. The Hillard dealerships have won nearly every customer satisfaction award in the industry for each of the franchises they represent.

He also was a community leader, lending his considerable energy and talent to numerous civic causes.

But to recall only his lifetime of public accomplishments misses a huge part of Charlie. He was loved by so many friends and family, and gave love generously in return. He was a devoted husband and father, leaving behind his wife Doreen and four children. We join them in celebrating the life of a truly remarkable man and mourning his untimely death.

To Doreen and all the children, we say thank you for sharing his life with us. We are all better for having known Charlie R. As race car legend Johnny Rutherford said at the funeral, he left a special footprint on the hearts of us all.

Charlie R. soared.

DEFENSE ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, while the cold war may be over, U.S. security interests endure. Unfortunately, many Americans do not fully appreciate this new dynamic. Indeed it is difficult to understand how emerging threats, may challenge future U.S. global interests.

Some examples are very clear: China's rise to power is increasingly marked by military posturing and coercive diplomacy in the Pacific rim. An unstable and fragmented Russia turns to aggressive nationalism to hold itself together. Economic ruin, ethnic violence, terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose serious threats to international stability.

We have asked our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines to protect our country and its vital national security interests, in this evolving international environment. Our military is our first, and often our last line of defense and we must be prepared to provide it with the technological edge to defeat any enemy on any battlefield.

I must remind my colleagues that the battlefield of the future has little resemblance to the battlefield of the past. Information warfare, wide availability of commercial off-the-shelf technology, and the proliferation of highly capable weapons systems, all contribute to a rapid evolution, in military tactics and doctrine.

Understanding how these new conflicts and demands are burdening our services is difficult to do from an arms length distance here in Washington.

So last Friday I went down to my district and spent time at Camp Lejeune. It was an opportunity to see

how the tremendous efforts our men and women in the Marine Corps can and will be increased with the support of adequate defense dollars.

Just last week, the House made a step in the right direction by passing H.R. 3230, the Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997. The bill stems the tide of the administration cuts that would have weakened our national security, and placed our men and women in uniform at increased risk. I would like to commend Chairman SPENCE for carefully crafting a bipartisan bill that achieves four fundamental goals:

First, we promised to improve the quality of life for our military personnel and their families. A number of critically important provisions in this bill such as the 3 percent pay raise, the increase in military housing allowance by 50 percent over the President's budget, the funding of troop barracks and child care centers, goes a long way to maintain a decent quality of life, for our all-volunteer military.

Second, we promised to sustain short and long-term readiness. Despite funds added by Congress last year to maintain minimum readiness levels, and the high pace of ongoing military operations around the world, the President suggested reductions in a variety of readiness accounts, below current spending levels. Despite the administration's proposed cuts, H.R. 3230 has recommended an increase of \$1.6 billion in key readiness accounts to ensure U.S. military preparedness.

Third, the National Security Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997 addresses the growing modernization shortfalls that have resulted from a decade-long, 80 percent decline in real dollars in procurement spending. The President's fiscal year 1997 procurement budget is the lowest in 50 years, and is a frightening \$5 billion lower than the Pentagon planned just one year ago. This bill therefore devotes the bulk of the spending increases recommended in H.R. 3230 to procurement. This will shore-up a dramatically downsized industrial base, by adding funds to a number of under- and unfunded programs.

And fourth, we have continued our efforts to create a more agile and competitive defense management structure, by continuing to reorganize and reduce our defense bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is consistent with the Contract With America. It is consistent with our goals of achieving a balanced budget by 2002; and we can do it the right way—not on the backs of the men and women who serve in our military.

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LIPINSKI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WICKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL MIKE BOORDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BATEMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we said a sad farewell to one of the best our Nation has to offer. I know Mike Boorda was a friend, a very special friend. Last Thursday our colleague from Mississippi, General MONTGOMERY, spoke of him as a brother. I too regarded Mike Boorda as a brother. No one outside my immediate family has touched my life more than he.

When I first met Mike Boorda, he was newly assigned as chief of naval personnel, and I was the ranking member of the military personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. I came to know firsthand the depth of his commitment to the Navy and his abiding devotion to the people who make our Navy the greatest Navy in the world.

Much has been and will be written about Mike Boorda and the tragedy his death represents. I cannot begin to understand the totality of what was involved in producing this tragedy. There are some things I do know, however, because it was my privilege to know Mike Boorda. As a frank, honest, straightforward witness and as an advocate for a better life for the people who make up our armed forces, the most respected segment of our society, he was superb.

From personal experience I know him to care enough to find time in an incredibly busy schedule to focus on individual personnel problems. He did so to insure that fairness was done to a member of the Navy family whom he believed had not been dealt with justly.

Much has been said about the V insignia he wore for a time in his decorations he pinned on his chest. I claim no expertise on the subject of military decorations and insignia. The only decoration I am sure I received after my service in the Air Force during the Korean conflict was a Good Conduct Medal. What I do know is that Mike Boorda would never, never seek to dissemble or pose as that which he was not. I not only do not know, I am not interested in pursuing, the arcane